

SENATE BILL 2543  
By Harper

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 21, relative to requiring safety belts in school buses and other motor vehicles.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 21, is amended by adding the following new section:

Section 49-6-2118.

(a) Any motor vehicle, including any bus, bought after the effective date of this act for the purposes of being owned, operated or leased by any public or private primary or secondary school or school system, and which is intended to be used to transport students, shall be equipped with safety belts for the driver and all passengers. All motor vehicles, including buses, which are owned, operated or leased by a public or private primary or secondary school or school system, and which are intended to be used to transport students, shall no later than July 1, 2009, be equipped with safety belts for the driver and all passengers. All such safety belts shall be ones approved by the department of safety of the state of Tennessee. The department of safety shall establish specifications and requirements of approved types of safety belts and attachments. The driver of any motor vehicle required to be equipped with safety belts under this act, shall not be held liable in any civil or criminal action for the failure of any passenger to wear a safety belt.

(b) The state board of education is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this act. All such rules and regulations shall be promulgated in accordance with the provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 5. Such rules and regulations shall include provisions for the posting of notices in each motor vehicle notifying the passengers of the need to wear their safety belts.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2004, the public welfare requiring it.